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## BOOK REVIEWS

*The American Indian as Slaveholder and Secessionist: An Omitted Chapter in the Diplomatic History of the Southern Confederacy.* By Annie Heloise Abel, Ph. D. (Cleveland: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1915. pp 394.)

*The American Indian as Participant in the Civil War.* By Annie Heloise Abel, Ph. D. (Cleveland: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1919. pp. 403.)

These are the first two volumes of a series of three on "The Slaveholding Indians," the third volume of which will discuss the Indian allies of the Confederacy "as victims under reconstruction." "Perhaps the third and last volume," the author states in her Preface, "will to many people be the most interesting because it will show, in great detail, the enormous price that the unfortunate Indian had to pay for having allowed himself to become a secessionist and a soldier." The work has under consideration only the colonized, or reservation Indians, and does not discuss the activities of the independent tribes who harassed the white men along the border whenever opportunity offered.

Volume one is devoted mainly to the negotiations carried on with Indians, at first by the individual states and later by the provisional Government of the Confederacy. The Indian "was enough inside the American Union to have something to say about secession and enough outside of it to be approached diplomatically." While the North was "neglecting the Indian even to an extent that amounted to actual dishonor, the Confederacy was offering him political integrity and political equality and was establishing over his country, not simply an empty wardship, but a bona fide protectorate." After a review of "The General Situation in the Indian Country, 1830-1860," and of the peculiarly close relations between the Indian Territory and the states of Texas and Arkansas, the volume relates in detail the story of the negotiations with the Indians conducted by Albert Pike

and others, and of the alliance which resulted from these active proselyting efforts.

We are told that negro slavery had "flourished as a legitimate institution only among the great tribes" south of the Missouri Compromise line, but that "with them it had been a familiar institution long before the time of their exile," the slaveholders being, most frequently, the half-breeds. Of the reservation Indians, approximately 74,000 in number, all but about 7,000 lived south of the Compromise line, and various reasons are cited to show that it was easier, more logical, and apparently more advantageous for the Indian to espouse both slavery and secession than to align himself with the North. But the book gives little information concerning the extent to which slaveholding was actually developed among the Indians, and although there is some evidence of unsolicited expressions of secessionist sentiment there seems to have been little independent and spontaneous feeling for the cause. The Indian as a slaveholder and a secessionist, as such, was apparently of little importance. Under the influence of propaganda, he seems to have become a secessionist because convinced that he would receive more favor from the South than from the North, rather than from any very ardent sympathy with the secession movement *per se*. And his active participation in the war was, as the author says, "a circumstance that was interesting rather than significant."

Volume two begins its account of military participation with the Battle of Pea Ridge, or Elkhorn, in which the Indians who were brought over by Pike from the Indian Territory committed such atrocities, after their own manner of warfare, that this was "the first and last time that they were allowed to participate in the war on a big scale. Henceforth, they were rarely ever anything more than scouts and skirmishers and that was all they were really fitted to be." Throughout the rest of the war, however, they were employed by both sides as auxiliaries in the guerilla warfare of the

border; in the "steady, stubborn fighting west of the Mississippi River which is either totally ignored or, at best, cast into dim obscurity."

Other chapters tell of the activities of Lane's Kansas Brigade, of the Northern expedition for the relief of the Indian refugees in southern Kansas and the recovery of the Indian Territory, and of the growing discontent and suffering among the seceding Indians, whom the Confederacy was unable either to use effectively or to provide for and control. Late in the war an effort was made to reorganize and strengthen the alliance, but nothing could be accomplished.

Both volumes are very largely documentary, with liberal quotations, in the footnotes and in the text, from important contemporary papers taken from the files of the Indian Office. Volume one contains, in an appendix, the Fort Smith Papers and the Wichita Agency Papers in full. Under the difficulties of the documentary method, the author has not altogether succeeded in imparting to her narrative much unified interest, but she has performed a valuable service in making available a great mass of material which has not been used by other historians.

C. S. T.

*Voting in the Fields . A Forgotten Chapter of the Civil War.* By Josiah Henry Benton, LL.D. (Boston: Privately printed, 1915. pp. VI, 332).

"This book is an attempt to portray an important phase of the Civil War, which has passed without consideration, and with little notice, by the historians of that period. Its preparation has required an examination of the Constitutions and legislation of all the States, south as well as north, and of their statutes allowing soldiers to vote in the field; and also of the legislative proceedings which resulted in such legislation, or in which such legislation was attempted but failed". (Introduction).

The question of voting in the field was of less importance